weight and thus malnourished. In India the National Family Health Survey-ll, (1998-99) has estimated that about 30% of all new borns are under weight at birth.

Water supplied to Railway coaches

*517. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the mechanism for filling water in the coaches;

(b) whether any quality check is done on water supplied to the Railways especially water supplied to the pantry cars in various trains; and

(c) what is the process and what are the results thereof

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The water tanks in the coaches are filled using flexible pipes connected to the main water pipe line provided for the purpose at nominated locations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Water supplied for various applications like taps on platforms and other passenger areas, for filling in coaches including pantry cars etc. is periodically tested by Railway's Medical Department for bacteriological fitness and residua! chlorine content for potability. Generally 90% to 92% samples are found conforming to standards. Results of remaining tests are analysed and necessary corrective measures are taken.

Electrification of rail routes in Assam

*518. SHRI URKHAOGWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not extending the provision of electrification of rail routes towards Assam, the gateway of North-Eastern-Region;

(b) whether Government would contemplate any policy to extend electrification on any part of the rail routes in the region in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?